

# COMPACTNESS FOR THE $\bar{\partial}$ - NEUMANN PROBLEM - A FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS APPROACH.

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ABSTRACT.

We discuss compactness of the  $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator in the setting of weighted  $L^2$ -spaces on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . For this purpose we use a description of relatively compact subsets of  $L^2$ -spaces. We also point out how to use this method to show that property (P) implies compactness for the  $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator on a smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domain and mention an abstract functional analysis characterization of compactness of the  $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator.

## 1. INTRODUCTION.

In this paper we continue the investigations of [HaHe] concerning existence and compactness of the canonical solution operator to  $\bar{\partial}$  on weighted  $L^2$ -spaces over  $\mathbb{C}^n$ . Let  $\varphi : \mathbb{C}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be a plurisubharmonic  $\mathcal{C}^2$ -weight function and define the space

$$L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) = \{f : \mathbb{C}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{C} : \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} |f|^2 e^{-\varphi} d\lambda < \infty\},$$

where  $\lambda$  denotes the Lebesgue measure, the space  $L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$  of  $(0,1)$ -forms with coefficients in  $L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$  and the space  $L^2_{(0,2)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$  of  $(0,2)$ -forms with coefficients in  $L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ . Let

$$\langle f, g \rangle_\varphi = \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} f \bar{g} e^{-\varphi} d\lambda$$

denote the inner product and

$$\|f\|_\varphi^2 = \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} |f|^2 e^{-\varphi} d\lambda$$

the norm in  $L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ .

We consider the weighted  $\bar{\partial}$ -complex

$$L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \xrightarrow[\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*]{\bar{\partial}} L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \xrightarrow[\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*]{\bar{\partial}} L^2_{(0,2)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi),$$

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where  $\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*$  is the adjoint operator to  $\bar{\partial}$  with respect to the weighted inner product. For  $u = \sum_{j=1}^n u_j d\bar{z}_j \in \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$  one has

$$\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u = - \sum_{j=1}^n \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial z_j} - \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z_j} \right) u_j.$$

The complex Laplacian on  $(0, 1)$ -forms is defined as

$$\square_\varphi := \bar{\partial} \bar{\partial}_\varphi^* + \bar{\partial}_\varphi^* \bar{\partial},$$

where the symbol  $\square_\varphi$  is to be understood as the maximal closure of the operator initially defined on forms with coefficients in  $\mathcal{C}_0^\infty$ , i.e., the space of smooth functions with compact support.

$\square_\varphi$  is a selfadjoint and positive operator, which means that

$$\langle \square_\varphi f, f \rangle_\varphi \geq 0, \text{ for } f \in \text{dom}(\square_\varphi).$$

The associated Dirichlet form is denoted by

$$(1.1) \quad Q_\varphi(f, g) = \langle \bar{\partial} f, \bar{\partial} g \rangle_\varphi + \langle \bar{\partial}_\varphi^* f, \bar{\partial}_\varphi^* g \rangle_\varphi,$$

for  $f, g \in \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$ . The weighted  $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator  $N_\varphi$  is - if it exists - the bounded inverse of  $\square_\varphi$ .

We indicate that  $f \in \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$  if and only if

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \left( \frac{\partial f_j}{\partial z_j} - \frac{\partial \varphi}{\partial z_j} f_j \right) \in L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$$

and that forms with coefficients in  $\mathcal{C}_0^\infty(\mathbb{C}^n)$  are dense in  $\text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$  in the graph norm  $f \mapsto (\|\bar{\partial} f\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* f\|_\varphi^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  (see [GaHa]).

Now we suppose that the lowest eigenvalue  $\mu_\varphi$  of the Levi - matrix

$$M_\varphi = \left( \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k} \right)_{jk}$$

of  $\varphi$  satisfies

$$\liminf_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} \mu_\varphi(z) > 0, \quad (*)$$

and mention the Kohn-Morrey formula:

$$(1.2) \quad \|\bar{\partial} u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u\|_\varphi^2 = \sum_{j,k=1}^n \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} \left| \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial \bar{z}_k} \right|^2 e^{-\varphi} d\lambda + \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k} u_j \bar{u}_k e^{-\varphi} d\lambda$$

from which we get

$$(1.3) \quad \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 \varphi}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k} u_j \bar{u}_k e^{-\varphi} d\lambda \leq \|\bar{\partial} u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u\|_\varphi^2,$$

hence for a plurisubharmonic weight function  $\varphi$  satisfying (\*), there is a  $C > 0$  such that

$$\|u\|_\varphi^2 \leq C(\|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*u\|_\varphi^2)$$

for each  $(0,1)$ -form  $u \in \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$ .

For the proof see [FS], [GaHa] or [Str].

Now it follows that there exists a uniquely determined  $(0,1)$ -form  $N_\varphi u \in \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$  such that

$$\langle u, v \rangle_\varphi = Q_\varphi(N_\varphi u, v) = \langle \bar{\partial}N_\varphi u, \bar{\partial}v \rangle_\varphi + \langle \bar{\partial}_\varphi^*N_\varphi u, \bar{\partial}_\varphi^*v \rangle_\varphi,$$

and that

$$(1.4) \quad \|\bar{\partial}N_\varphi u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*N_\varphi u\|_\varphi^2 \leq C_1\|u\|_\varphi^2$$

which means that

$$N_{1,\varphi} : L_{(0,1)}^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \longrightarrow \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$$

is continuous in the graph topology, as well as

$$\|N_\varphi u\|_\varphi^2 \leq C_2(\|\bar{\partial}N_\varphi u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*N_\varphi u\|_\varphi^2) \leq C_3\|u\|_\varphi^2,$$

where  $C_1, C_2, C_3 > 0$  are constants. Hence we get that  $N_\varphi$  is a continuous linear operator from  $L_{(0,1)}^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$  into itself (see also [ChSh]).

We will give a new proof of the main result in [HaHe] using a direct approach, see [B], Corollaire IV.26, where two conditions are given which imply that a subset of an  $L^2$ -space is relatively compact. The first of these conditions will correspond to Gårding's inequality (see for instance [F], [GaHa],) and the second condition corresponds to our assumption on the lowest eigenvalue of the Levi matrix  $M_\varphi$ .

We indicate how to use this method to show that property (P) implies compactness for the  $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator on a smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domain  $\Omega \subset \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  and finally mention an abstract necessary and sufficient condition for the  $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator to be compact.

## 2. WEIGHTED SOBOLEV SPACES

Now we define an appropriate Sobolev space and prove compactness of the corresponding embedding, for related settings see [BDH], [Jo], [KM].

**Definition 2.1.** *Let*

$$\mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi} = \{u \in L_{(0,1)}^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) : \|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*u\|_\varphi^2 < \infty\}$$

*with norm*

$$\|u\|_{Q_\varphi} = (\|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*u\|_\varphi^2)^{1/2}.$$

**Remark:**  $\mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi}$  coincides with the form domain  $\text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*)$  of  $Q_\varphi$  (see [Ga], [GaHa]).

**Proposition 2.2.** *Suppose that the weight function  $\varphi$  is plurisubharmonic and that the lowest eigenvalue  $\mu_\varphi$  of the Levi - matrix  $M_\varphi$  satisfies*

$$\lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} \mu_\varphi(z) = +\infty. \quad (**)$$

*Then the embedding*

$$j_\varphi : \mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi} \hookrightarrow L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$$

*is compact.*

*Proof.* For  $u \in \mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi}$  we have by 1.3

$$\|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u\|_\varphi^2 \geq \langle M_\varphi u, u \rangle_\varphi.$$

This implies

$$(2.1) \quad \|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u\|_\varphi^2 \geq \int_{\mathbb{C}^n} \mu_\varphi(z) |u(z)|^2 e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z).$$

We show that the unit ball in  $\mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi}$  is relatively compact in  $L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ . For this purpose we use the following lemma, see for instance [B] Corollaire IV.26.

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a bounded subset of  $L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ . Suppose that*

*(i) for each  $\epsilon > 0$  and for each  $R > 0$  there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that*

$$\|\tau_h f - f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{B}_R, \varphi)} < \epsilon$$

*for each  $h \in \mathbb{C}^n$  with  $|h| < \delta$  and for each  $f \in \mathcal{A}$ , where  $\tau_h f(z) = f(z + h)$  and  $\mathbb{B}_R = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : |z| < R\}$ ;*

*(ii) for each  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $R > 0$  such that*

$$\|f\|_{L^2(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathbb{B}_R, \varphi)} < \epsilon$$

*for each  $f \in \mathcal{A}$ .*

*Then  $\mathcal{A}$  is relatively compact in  $L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$ .*

**Remark 2.4.** *Conditions (i) and (ii) are also necessary for  $\mathcal{A}$  to be relatively compact in  $L^2(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$  (see [B]).*

First we show that condition (i) of Lemma 2.3 is satisfied in our situation. Let  $u = \sum_{j=1}^n u_j dz_j$  be a  $(0,1)$ -form with coefficients in  $\mathcal{C}_0^\infty$ . For each  $u_j$  and for  $t \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $h = (h_1, \dots, h_n) \in \mathbb{C}^n$  let

$$v_j(t) := u_j(z + th).$$

Note that

$$|v'_j(t)| \leq |h| \left[ \sum_{k=1}^n \left( \left| \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_k}(z + th) \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial y_k}(z + th) \right|^2 \right) \right]^{1/2},$$

where  $z_k = x_k + iy_k$ , for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ . By the fact that

$$u_j(z + h) - u_j(z) = v_j(1) - v_j(0) = \int_0^1 v'_j(t) dt$$

we can now estimate for  $|h| < R$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{\mathbb{B}_R} |\tau_h u_j(z) - u_j(z)|^2 e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z) = \int_{\mathbb{B}_R} |\tau_h(\chi_R u_j)(z) - \chi_R u_j(z)|^2 e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z) \\
& \leq |h|^2 \int_{\mathbb{B}_R} \left[ \int_0^1 \sum_{k=1}^n \left( \left| \frac{\partial(\chi_R u_j)}{\partial x_k}(z + th) \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\partial(\chi_R u_j)}{\partial y_k}(z + th) \right|^2 \right) dt \right] e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z) \\
& \leq C_{R,\varphi} |h|^2 \int_{\mathbb{B}_{3R}} \sum_{k=1}^n \left( \left| \frac{\partial(\chi_R u_j)}{\partial x_k}(z) \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\partial(\chi_R u_j)}{\partial y_k}(z) \right|^2 \right) e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z)
\end{aligned}$$

for  $j = 1, \dots, n$  where  $\chi_R$  is a  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$  cutoff function which is identically 1 on  $\mathbb{B}_{2R}$  and zero outside  $\mathbb{B}_{3R}$  and by Gårding's inequality for  $\mathbb{B}_{3R}$  (see [ChSh], [F], [GaHa])

$$\begin{aligned}
\|\chi_R u\|_{\varphi,1}^2 & \leq C'_{\varphi,R} \left( \|\bar{\partial}(\chi_R u)\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*(\chi_R u)\|_\varphi^2 + \|\chi_R u\|_\varphi^2 \right) \\
& \leq C''_{\varphi,R} \left( \|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^* u\|_\varphi^2 + \|u\|_\varphi^2 \right)
\end{aligned}$$

we can control the last integral by the norm  $\|u\|_{Q_\varphi}^2$ . Since we started from the unit ball in  $\mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi}$  we get that condition (i) of Lemma 2.3 is satisfied.

Condition (ii) of Lemma 2.3 is satisfied for the unit ball of  $\mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi}$  since we have

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathbb{B}_R} |u(z)|^2 e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z) \leq \int_{\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathbb{B}_R} \frac{\mu_\varphi(z) |u(z)|^2}{\inf\{\mu_\varphi(z) : |z| \geq R\}} e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z).$$

So formula (2.1) together with assumption (\*\*) shows that

$$\int_{\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathbb{B}_R} |u(z)|^2 e^{-\varphi(z)} d\lambda(z) \leq \frac{\|u\|_{Q_\varphi}^2}{\inf\{\mu_\varphi(z) : |z| \geq R\}} < \epsilon,$$

if  $R$  is big enough. □

We are now able to give a short proof of the main result in [HaHe] or [GaHa]

**Proposition 2.5.** *Let  $\varphi$  be a plurisubharmonic  $\mathcal{C}^2$ - weight function. If the lowest eigenvalue  $\mu_\varphi(z)$  of the Levi - matrix  $M_\varphi$  satisfies (\*\*), then  $N_\varphi$  is compact.*

*Proof.* By Proposition 2.2, the embedding  $\mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi} \hookrightarrow L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$  is compact. The inverse  $N_\varphi$  of  $\square_\varphi$  is continuous as an operator from  $L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$  into  $\mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi}$ , this follows from 1.4. Therefore we have that  $N_\varphi$  is compact as an operator from  $L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$  into itself. □

Now notice that

$$N_\varphi : L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \longrightarrow L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$$

can be written in the form

$$N_\varphi = j_\varphi \circ j_\varphi^*,$$

where

$$j_\varphi^* : L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \longrightarrow \mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi}$$

is the adjoint operator to  $j_\varphi$  (see [Str]).

This means that  $N_\varphi$  is compact if and only if  $j_\varphi$  is compact and summarizing the above results we get the following

**Proposition 2.6.** *Let  $\varphi : \mathbb{C}^n \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$  be a plurisubharmonic  $\mathcal{C}^2$ -weight function . The  $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator*

$$N_\varphi : L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi) \longrightarrow L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n, \varphi)$$

*is compact if and only if for each  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $R > 0$  such that*

$$\|u\|_{L^2_{(0,1)}(\mathbb{C}^n \setminus \mathbb{B}_R, \varphi)} < \epsilon$$

*for each  $u \in \mathcal{W}^{Q_\varphi}$  with*

$$\|\bar{\partial}u\|_\varphi^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_\varphi^*u\|_\varphi^2 \leq 1.$$

### 3. SMOOTHLY BOUNDED PSEUDOCONVEX DOMAINS AND PROPERTIES (P) AND ( $\tilde{P}$ )

Let  $\Omega \subset \subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be a smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domain.  $\Omega$  satisfies property (P), if or each  $M > 0$  there exists a neighborhood  $U$  of  $\partial\Omega$  and a plurisubharmonic function  $\varphi_M \in \mathcal{C}^2(U)$  such that

$$\sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_M}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k}(p) t_j \bar{t}_k \geq M \|t\|^2,$$

for all  $p \in \partial\Omega$  and for all  $t \in \mathbb{C}^n$ .

$\Omega$  satisfies property ( $\tilde{P}$ ) if the following holds: there is a constant  $C$  such that for all  $M > 0$  there exists a  $\mathcal{C}^2$  function  $\varphi_M$  in a neighborhood  $U$  (depending on  $M$ ) of  $\partial\Omega$  with

$$(i) \left| \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial \varphi_M}{\partial z_j}(z) t_j \right|^2 \leq C \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_M}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k}(z) t_j \bar{t}_k$$

and

$$(ii) \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_M}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k}(z) t_j \bar{t}_k \geq M \|t\|^2,$$

for all  $z \in U$  and for all  $t \in \mathbb{C}^n$ .

In [C] Catlin showed that condition (P) implies compactness of the  $\bar{\partial}$ -operator  $N$  on  $L^2_{(0,1)}(\Omega)$  and McNeal ([McN]) showed that property ( $\tilde{P}$ ) also implies compactness of the  $\bar{\partial}$ -operator  $N$  on  $L^2_{(0,1)}(\Omega)$ . It is not difficult to show that property (P) implies property ( $\tilde{P}$ ), see for instance [Str].

We can now use a similar approach as in section 2 to prove Catlin's result. For this purpose we use the following version of lemma 2.3

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be a bounded subset of  $L^2(\Omega)$ . Suppose that*

*(i) for each  $\epsilon > 0$  and for each  $\omega \subset\subset \Omega$  there exists  $\delta > 0, \delta < \text{dist}(\omega, \Omega^c)$  such that*

$$\|\tau_h f - f\|_{L^2(\omega)} < \epsilon$$

*for each  $h \in \mathbb{C}^n$  with  $|h| < \delta$  and for each  $f \in \mathcal{A}$ ,*

*(ii) for each  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $\omega \subset\subset \Omega$  such that*

$$\|f\|_{L^2(\Omega \setminus \omega)} < \epsilon$$

*for each  $f \in \mathcal{A}$ .*

*Then  $\mathcal{A}$  is relatively compact in  $L^2(\Omega)$ .*

**Remark 3.2.** *Conditions (i) and (ii) are also necessary for  $\mathcal{A}$  to be relatively compact in  $L^2(\Omega)$ .*

In order to show that the unit ball in  $\text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}^*)$  in the graph norm  $f \mapsto (\|\bar{\partial}f\|^2 + \|\bar{\partial}^*f\|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  satisfies condition (i) of 3.1 we remark that Gårding's inequality holds for  $\omega \subset\subset \Omega$  (see section 2). To verify condition (ii) we use property (P) and the following version of the Kohn-Morrey formula

$$(3.1) \quad \int_{\Omega} \sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_M}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k} u_j \bar{u}_k e^{-\varphi_M} d\lambda \leq \|\bar{\partial}u\|_{\varphi_M}^2 + \|\bar{\partial}_{\varphi_M}^* u\|_{\varphi_M}^2,$$

here we used that  $\Omega$  is pseudoconvex, which means that the boundary terms in the Kohn-Morrey formula can be neglected. Now we point out that the weighted  $\bar{\partial}$ -complex is equivalent to the unweighted one and that the expression  $\sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\partial \varphi_M}{\partial z_j} u_j$  which appears in  $\bar{\partial}_{\varphi_M}^* u$ , can be controlled by the complex Hessian  $\sum_{j,k=1}^n \frac{\partial^2 \varphi_M}{\partial z_j \partial \bar{z}_k} u_j \bar{u}_k$ , which follows from the fact that property (P) implies property ( $\tilde{P}$ ) (see [Str]). Of course we also use that the weight  $\varphi_M$  is bounded on  $\Omega \subset\subset \mathbb{C}^n$ . In this way the same reasoning as in section 2 shows that property (P) implies condition (ii) of lemma 3.1. Therefore condition (P) gives that the unit ball of  $\text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}^*)$  in the graph norm  $f \mapsto (\|\bar{\partial}f\|^2 + \|\bar{\partial}^*f\|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$  is relatively compact in  $L^2_{(0,1)}(\Omega)$  and hence that the  $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator is compact.

Now let

$$j : \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}^*) \hookrightarrow L^2_{(0,1)}(\Omega)$$

denote the embedding. It follows from [Str] that

$$N = j \circ j^*.$$

Hence  $N$  is compact if and only if  $j$  is compact, where  $\text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}^*)$  is endowed with the graph norm  $f \mapsto (\|\bar{\partial}f\|^2 + \|\bar{\partial}^*f\|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ .

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $\Omega \subset\subset \mathbb{C}^n$  be a smoothly bounded pseudoconvex domain. Let  $\mathcal{B}$  denote the unit ball of  $\text{dom}(\bar{\partial}) \cap \text{dom}(\bar{\partial}^*)$  in the graph norm  $f \mapsto (\|\bar{\partial}f\|^2 + \|\bar{\partial}^*f\|^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . The  $\bar{\partial}$ -Neumann operator  $N$  is compact if and only if  $\mathcal{B}$  as a subset of  $L^2_{(0,1)}(\Omega)$  satisfies the following condition:*

*for each  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists  $\omega \subset\subset \Omega$  such that*

$$\|f\|_{L^2_{(0,1)}(\Omega \setminus \omega)} < \epsilon$$

for each  $f \in \mathcal{B}$ .

This follows from the above remarks about the embedding  $j$  and the fact that the two conditions in 3.1 are also necessary for a bounded set in  $L^2$  to be relatively compact. For a localized version of the above result see [Sa].

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